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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,877	01/29/2004	Mark C. Boner	042716.005	4110

25461 7590 06/26/2006

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EXAMINER

CINTINS, IVARS C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1724

DATE MAILED: 06/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,877

Applicant(s)

BONER ET AL.

Examiner

Ivars C. Cintins

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1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-25, 28-31 and 37-44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26, 27, 32-36 and 45-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ 1/29/04; 8/23/04; 1/13/06; 4/13/06 & 5/30/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Applicant's election of Group II (claims 26, 27, 32-36 and 45-50) in the reply filed on April 11, 2006 is acknowledged. Applicant's election of polyester inner core with a polypropylene sheath as the compressible filter media species is also acknowledged. Because Applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Claims 1-25, 28-31 and 37-44 are withdrawn from further consideration, as being directed to a non-elected invention.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 26, 27, 45, 46 and 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Couvreur et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,180,825; hereinafter "Couvreur"). See col. 1, lines 16-17; col. 2, lines 59-63; col. 4, lines 31-34; col. 5, lines 39-40 and 43-45.

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Fanqing et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,851,136).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 32-36 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Couvreur in view of Masuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,248,415; hereinafter "Masuda"). Couvreur discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the type of filtration material employed (i.e. pliant), and the recited trough (claim 47). Masuda discloses a similar filtration system, and teaches utilizing pliant material (see col. 3, lines 12-28) as the filtration media. This secondary reference further teaches utilizing a trough to direct fluid away from a treatment housing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the filtration material of the secondary reference for the filtration material of the primary reference, since this secondary reference filtration material is capable of filtering a fluid in substantially the same manner as the filtration material of the primary reference, to produce substantially the same results. Also, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of the primary reference with a trough, as disclosed by the secondary reference, in order to facilitate removal of spent backwashing liquid from this primary reference system.

Mikule et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,965,000) discloses utilizing a flexible housing to compress a particulate treatment material. Lederman (U.S. Patent No. 6,605,216) and Dew (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0140256) disclose similar fluid filtration systems.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins whose telephone number is 571-272-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00

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PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Duane Smith, can be reached at 571-272-1166.

The centralized facsimile number for the USPTO is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

I. Cintins
June 18, 2006